

# AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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**AUSTRIAN TREATY TALKS SUSPENDED.** The talks on the Austrian State Treaty, which were resumed in New York by the Big Four Foreign Ministers on September 23 and later continued by their deputies, were suspended on December 14 because of the impending holiday season and the lack of results in the direct negotiations between the Austrian Government and the Soviet Union regarding Article 48bis of the treaty draft. At their last meeting, the Deputies unanimously decided to resume their discussions in London on January 9 and expressed the hope that the London meetings would lead to final agreement on the treaty.

Important progress in that direction was actually achieved during the past three months. Article 35 dealing with the complex question of "German assets" in Austria -- an article which in all previous negotiations had proven to be the greatest stumbling block to agreement among the four powers -- was cleared up during the New York sessions. The treaty articles still awaiting settlement pertain to questions, which, in fact, are of considerably less importance than those covered by Article 35. These are:

Article 16: Displaced Persons problem.

Article 27: Use of military experts in Austria's future armament industry and armed forces.

Article 42: Restitution obligations on property assets belonging to nationals of the United Nations.

Article 43: Payment of interest on Austria's pre-war debts.

Article 48bis: Settlement of Soviet claims for Russian services and supplies to Austria since May 8, 1945.

In connection with the latter article, the Austrian Government quite some time ago took the initiative of bilateral negotiations with Soviet authorities in Vienna and presented far-reaching proposals for a direct settlement of this question outside the scope of the treaty. At the New York meetings Soviet Deputy Zarubin declared that final agreement on Article 48bis of the treaty would be possible only after conclusion of direct negotiations between the Austrian Government and Soviet authorities in Austria.

**CHANCELLOR FIGL APPEALS TO ALLIED COMMISSION ON DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION.** On December 8, Chancellor Leopold Figl sent a note to the Chairman of the Allied Commission concerning the security situation in Lower Austria. The note points out "that in past weeks heavily armed men in uniform have committed various acts of violence. The Council of Ministers therefore requests the Allied Commission and the Russian High Commissioner to permit Federal Constabulary officials to also use arms against those criminals who are clothed in military uniform, wholly or in part."

**AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT PROTESTS HUNGARIAN MINING OF BORDER.** At the end of November the Austrian Government sent a second sharp note of protest to the Hungarian Government on the recent mining of the border between the two countries. The Hungarian action was being carried out with such little regard for safety that the mines were a constant threat to innocent individuals and property on Austrian territory, the note stated. The Austrian Government considered such action a violation of international law.

After receipt of the first note, Hungarian authorities continued to mine the barbed wire fences along the Austro-Hungarian frontier.

**AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT PREPARING PROPOSALS FOR AN ANTITRUST LAW.** The Austrian Government is now drafting specific proposals for antitrust legislation to be introduced in Parliament at the earliest possible date. If these proposals are enacted into law, all cartels, trusts and monopolies considered detrimental to the public welfare would become illegal. The bill defines as cartels all those agreements between economically independent corporations, free professions or trade associations, where the effect is substantially to restrict or regu-





late competition. Such agreements would require the written authorization of the Ministry of Trade and would be subject to its supervision. Should the Ministry find that certain trade combinations endanger the public welfare, it would be empowered to prohibit them and order such agreements in restraint of trade changed. According to the proposals, the public welfare would be considered so endangered where cartel agreements have the effect of:

- (a) unduly restricting manufacturing or trade;
- (b) increasing prices or preventing their decrease;
- (c) discriminating against a given economic activity, especially in such a way as to endanger the existence of independent firms;
- (d) compromising the fair distribution and fair prices of essential goods and services; and of
- (e) preventing the normal development of manufacturing and commerce or tending to make impossible a fair return in both.

The government does not hold the view that all cartels should be prohibited as such and is of the opinion that, in certain cases, monopolies may actually be in the public interest. But, in order to prevent developments detrimental to the national economy, it recommends that cartels be placed under the strict supervision of the Ministry of Trade and that the latter be given authority to enforce future antitrust provisions.

Penalties up to 500,000 schillings and jail sentences ranging from 1 to 5 years have been proposed for violations of the contemplated Antitrust Law.

AUSTRIAN MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR DECRIES WILDCAT STRIKES. When, in connection with the current discussions on the "transition aid" (cost of living adjustment) to be granted Austrian workers in order to offset recent price increases, wildcat strikes broke out in several parts of Austria in the first half of December and led to bloody encounters with the police, Minister of the Interior Oskar Helmer appealed to both sides for reason. He characterized the disorders as the illegal action of opponents of the Republic and asserted that such outbreaks could not be tolerated in a constitutional democratic state. The blockading of streets, the violent interruption of railroad traffic, the forceful entry into offices of the Chambers of Labor and Commerce and the abuse and mistreatment of union officials bore no relationship whatsoever to the right to strike. It was not only a question of the right and duty of every citizen to safeguard order in the country; it was a political matter: Minister Helmer reminded Austrian workers that, after World War I, fascism had taken roots in precisely those places where workers had used illegal means to further their ends.

AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT APPROVES PROVISIONAL BUDGET. In its session of December 7, the Austrian Parliament approved a four-month provisional budget by a majority vote of the People's and Socialist Parties in the face of opposition by the Union of Independents and the Communists. The new Austrian Government, which took office on November 8, regards as especially important policy measures for the future, first, a basic administrative reform and, second, a decrease in government expenditures. In the time available to date, it had not been possible to submit an exact budget on the basis of the new government's policy and it was therefore necessary for Parliament to vote a provisional budget for the next four months.

BUDGET HEARINGS HELD. Dr. Eugen Margaretha, Austrian Minister of Finance, held a budget hearing on December 22 to afford leading economists the opportunity to present and defend their views on the reduction of federal expenditures. Numerous such proposals calling for a reduction of the Austrian national budget had been expressed by these authorities in newspaper articles and speeches.

AUSTRIAN PRICE CONTROLS RENEWED. In its session of November 25, the Austrian House of Representatives unanimously adopted a bill to extend the Price Control Law until July 30, 1950. After debate, it was decided that current economic conditions were such that present price controls would have to be maintained in equal force, at least for the time being. Recent events had shown that the economic development of Austria was not yet sufficiently advanced to lift all government controls.





OCCUPATION FORCES TO BE REQUESTED TO RELEASE REQUISITIONED HOUSING.  
Three Deputies in the Austrian Parliament have petitioned Chancellor Figl to request the Allied occupation powers to release some of the apartments requisitioned by them. Pointing to the great housing shortage, the petition stated that a large number of apartments were still requisitioned by the Allies and that not all of these were being fully occupied. A more rational use of such requisitioned quarters would do much to alleviate the urgent need for housing.

COMPLETE LIST OF 165 MEMBERS OF AUSTRIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The list of Deputies elected to the Austrian "Nationalrat" (Lower Chamber of Parliament) published in the last issue of this bulletin erroneously contained some members of the Vienna Municipal Council. The following is a revised list of the 165 representatives in the Austrian Parliament. The abbreviated party affiliation after each name is the official German one and stands for:

OeVP	--	Austrian People's Party	--	77 seats.
SPOe	--	Socialist Party of Austria	--	67 seats.
KdU	--	Union of Independents	--	16 seats.
LB	--	Leftist Bloc (Communists)	--	5 seats.

Karl Aichhorn (OeVP), Edmund Aigner (SPOe), Erwin Altenburger (OeVP), Rudolf Appel (SPOe), Johann Astl (SPOe), Eng. Leopold Babitsch (OeVP), Franz Bauer (OeVP), Wilhelm Bleyer (OeVP), Dr. Fritz Bock (OeVP), Josef Boeck-Greissau (OeVP), Johann Boehm (SPOe), Karl Brunner (OeVP), Dr. Adalbert Buchberger (KdU), Theodor Cerny (OeVP), Karl Czernetz (SPOe), Josef Dengler (OeVP), Hans Draxler (SPOe), Gerhard Ebenbichler (KdU), Anton Ehrenfried (OeVP), Max Eibegger (SPOe), Karl Eichinger (OeVP), Viktor Elser (LB), Ferdinand Fageth (SPOe), Dr. Leopold Figl (OeVP), Dr. Josef Fink (OeVP), Eng. Pius Fink (OeVP), Ernst Fischer (LB), Leopold Fischer (OeVP), Ferdinanda Flossmann (SPOe), Georg Franz (OeVP), Anton Frisch (OeVP), Ermerich Froemel (SPOe), Michael Fruehwirth (SPOe), Dr. Anton Gasselich (KdU), Ferdinand Geiflinger (OeVP), Karl Gfoeller (SPOe), Johann Giegerl (SPOe), Anton Gindler (OeVP), Dr. Alfons Gorbach (OeVP), Ferdinand Graf (OeVP), Isidor Griessner (OeVP), Alois Gruber (KdU), Dr. Karl Gruber (OeVP), Franz Grubhofer (OeVP), Dr. Franz Gschnitzer (OeVP), Rudolf Gschweidl (SPOe), Karl Hartleb (KdU), Eng. Eduard Hartmann (OeVP), Johann Hattmannsdorfer (OeVP), Franz Haunschmidt (OeVP), Dr. Ferdinand Haeuslmayer (SPOe), Oskar Helmer (SPOe), Friedrich Hillegeist (SPOe), Ignaz Hinterleithner (SPOe), Fritz Hinterndorfer (OeVP), Edmund Holzfeind (SPOe), Franz Honner (LB), Alfred Horn (SPOe), Oskar Huemer (KdU), Josef Hummer (OeVP), Dr. Felix Hurdes (OeVP), Rosa Jochmann (SPOe), Gustav Kapsreiter (OeVP), Franz Klautzer (KdU), Dr. Rudolf Kopf (KdU), Johann Koplenig (LB), Dr. Ernst Koref (SPOe), Dr. h.c. Theodor Koerner (SPOe), Eng. Franz Kortschak (OeVP), Ludwig Kostroun (SPOe), Franz Kranebitter (OeVP), Dr. Peter Krauland (OeVP), Dr. Herbert A. Kraus (KdU), Josef Kraus (OeVP), Maria Kren (SPOe), Franz Krippner (OeVP), Leopold Kunschak (OeVP), Karl Kysela (SPOe), Hermann Lackner (SPOe), Karl Lakowitsch (OeVP), Eduard Ludwig (OeVP), Erwin Machunze (OeVP), Karl Maisel (SPOe), Dr. Alfred Maleta (OeVP), Rudolf Marchner (SPOe), Dr. Eugen Margaretha (OeVP), Karl Mark (SPOe), Josef Matt (OeVP), Hans Maurer (OeVP), Franz Mayrhofer (OeVP), Alois Mentastl (SPOe), Dr. Alfred Migsch (SPOe), Josef Mitterndorfer (OeVP), Wilhelmine Moik (SPOe), Viktor Mueller (OeVP), Andreas Nedwal (OeVP), Dr. Alexander Nemezc (OeVP), Dr. Max Neugebauer (SPOe), Anton Neumann (KdU), Thomas Neuwirth (KdU), Franz Olah (SPOe), Viktor Petschnik (SPOe), Dr. Helfried Pfeifer (KdU), Dr. Bruno Pittermann (SPOe), Marianne Pollak (SPOe), Kurt Preussler (SPOe), Franz Prinke (OeVP), Otto Probst (SPOe), Gabriele Proft (SPOe), Anton Proksch (SPOe), Eng. Julius Raab (OeVP), Hermann Rainer (OeVP), Hans Rammer (KdU), Grete Rehor (OeVP), Dr. Viktor Reimann (KdU), Edmund Reismann (SPOe), Josef Reiter (OeVP), Martin Rom (SPOe), Paul Rosenberger (SPOe), Hans Roth (OeVP), Dr. Rupert Roth (OeVP), Erwin Scharf (LB), Dr. Adolf Schaerf (SPOe), Dr. Otto Scheff (OeVP), Alois Scheibenreif (OeVP), Dr. Robert Scheuch (KdU), Pius Schneeberger (SPOe), Dr. Albert Schoepf (OeVP), Hans Sebingner (OeVP), Georg Seidl (OeVP), Karl Seitz (SPOe), Rudolf Singer (SPOe), Felix Slavik (SPOe), Lola Solar (OeVP), Andreas Stampfer (SPOe), Otto Steinegger (OeVP), Josef Steiner (SPOe), Dr. Ernst Strachwitz (OeVP), Peter Strasser (SPOe), Eng. Franz Strobl (OeVP), Josef Strommer (OeVP), Dr. Fritz Stueber (KdU), Barthold Stuerghk (OeVP), Leopold Thurner (OeVP), Dr. Lajo Tonicic (OeVP), Paul Truppe (SPOe), Dr. Otto Tschadek (SPOe), Vinzenz Uebeleis (SPOe), Robert Uhlir (SPOe), Josef Voithofer (SPOe), Hans Vollmann (OeVP), Eng. Karl Waldbrunner (SPOe), Michael Walla (OeVP), Paula Wallisch (SPOe), Josef Wallner (OeVP), Johann Weidenholzer (OeVP), Eduard Weikhart (SPOe), Lois





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Weinberger (OeVP), Anton Weindl (OeVP), Sepp Wendl (SPOe), Heinrich Widmayer (SPOe), Alois Wimberger (SPOe), Leopold Wolf (SPOe), Dr. Leopold Zechner (SPOe), Rupert Zechtl (SPOe).

LIST OF NEW AUSTRIAN GOVERNORS. As a result of the recent consultations which led to the formation of the provincial administrations for each state in the Austrian Federal Republic, the following political personalities were elected provincial governors: Dr. Theodor Koerner (Socialist Party) for Vienna, Johann Steinboeck (People's Party) for Lower Austria, Dr. Lorenz Karall (People's Party) for the Burgenland, Dr. Heinrich Gleissner (People's Party) for Upper Austria, Dr. Josef Klaus (People's Party) for Salzburg, Josef Krainer (People's Party) for Styria, Ulrich Ilg (People's Party) for Vorarlberg, Ferdinand Wendenig (Socialist Party) for Carinthia and Dr. Alfons Weissgatterer (People's Party) for the Tyrol.

DR. KOERNER RE-ELECTED MAYOR OF VIENNA. Dr. Theodor Koerner (Socialist Party) was re-elected Mayor of Vienna on December 5 at the constituent session of the Vienna Municipal Council. The present mayor received all 95 valid votes cast at the meeting, which was also attended by Allied representatives. In his acceptance speech, the 76 year old former World War I general declared that alleviation of the housing shortage was the most pressing problem the Council had to solve. There were no less than 7546 emergency cases (involving 19,282 persons) and, although the municipal administration had built 65,000 apartments in the period of the First Republic, almost 87,000 had been destroyed during the war, Dr. Koerner said.

488,419 AUSTRIAN PRISONERS OF WAR HAVE SO FAR RETURNED. To date, a total of 488,419 Austrian prisoners of war have returned from captivity, according to an announcement by the Ministry of the Interior. Of these, 140,750 had been in American captivity, 137,299 in Russian camps, 134,500 in British camps, 58,520 in French camps, 15,250 in Yugoslav camps, 1500 in Belgian and 600 in Polish prisoner-of-war camps. It is estimated that approximately 5000 Austrians are still in Russian captivity; 1500 of these are expected to return within the next two months.

AUSTRIA PROTESTS ANGUS WARD ARREST. Austria was one of the twelve countries which had sent notes of protest to the Chinese Communists against the arbitrary arrest of U.S. Consul General Angus Ward in Mukden, the U.S. State Department recently announced.

AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER. Dr. Wolfgang Hoeller, newly appointed Austrian Chargé d'Affaires in Mexico, presented his credentials to the Mexican Foreign Minister on November 28, 1949.

FORMER MINISTER GEROE APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF VIENNA SUPREME COURT. On November 7, 1949, Federal President Dr. Karl Renner appointed Dr. Josef Geroe President of the Vienna Supreme Court. Dr. Geroe was Federal Minister of Justice from 1945 to 1949.

ERP ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRIA CENTRALIZED IN A SINGLE AGENCY. At a press conference held in Vienna on December 14, Prof. Wilhelm Taucher, recently appointed director of the new ERP Central Agency, outlined the purpose and organization of ERP activities in Austria.

The new agency will be divided into four divisions. The first of these, the Central Division will be under the direction of Alfred Regner-Bleyleben and will handle overall coordination, as well as all questions relating to personnel and administrative procedures. The second division headed by Dr. Franz Nemschak, will deal with scientific and economic problems as they relate to ERP matters. The third division under the direction of Dr. Hans Igler, will draw up all plans and conduct all negotiations with Austrian and American agencies. The fourth division, headed by Dr. Guido Preglau, will be responsible for actual completion of transactions.

The Austrian ERP offices and installations in Paris and Washington will henceforth be directly responsible to the new central agency in Vienna.

Referring to the Marshall Plan itself, Dr. Taucher said that half of the time allotted for the European Recovery Program had already been consumed and that Austria had already used up two-thirds of the funds





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it could hope to expect from it. It was therefore of decisive importance that the remainder of these funds be used primarily for those enterprises whose production was, either directly or indirectly, a source of foreign exchange or represented a saving of foreign exchange. It was imperative that all efforts tend toward an improvement of Austria's trade balance by 1952. No ERP funds could therefore be used for purposes which did not have direct bearing on this goal.

On the question of European cooperation, Dr. Taucher pointed out that the development of an inter-European system of payments along multilateral lines, such as Austria had always supported, would do much to improve foreign trade. In 1952 the world will have to choose between cooperation -- resulting in greater production and a higher standard of living at the cost of sharper competition -- and a relapse into unilateral mercantilistic methods, which, in the opinion of Dr. Taucher, would lead the world to a new catastrophe.

ECA PUBLISHES LIST OF AUSTRIAN IMPORTERS. To assist American firms desiring representation or customer prospects, the Economic Cooperation Administration issued on December 7 a list of Austrian importers who have purchased commodities financed under the Marshall Plan from the inception of the program through September 30, 1949. More than 500 firms are listed.

Bert H. White, head of ECA's Office of Small Business, said that with the issuance of the list ECA now is providing American small business firms with a complete program of Marshall Plan business information on Austria. He pointed out that "the problem of obtaining information regarding proposed purchases by Austrian importers appears to be solved. We are getting that information and it is being disseminated immediately to the business community. With the advanced purchase information available and the list of importers, the American small business firm has the working tools to go after orders from Austria. The rest is up to the businessman."

ADDITIONAL ECA COUNTERPART FUNDS RELEASED. On December 8, Austria released 350 million schillings in Marshall Plan counterpart funds to reconstruct its transportation and communications systems, increase its agricultural production, build housing units for its workers and improve its technical and trade schools, the Economic Cooperation Administration announced in Vienna and Washington.

The ECA said that the approval brings the total of Austrian counterpart funds released in 1949 to 1.45 billion schillings (about \$100 million).

The release allocates 150 million schillings for railroad reconstruction, 93 million for improvement of highways, bridges and public buildings, 50 million for agricultural and forestry development, 30 million for post, telegraph and telephone facilities, 17 million for industrial and farm workers' housing and 10 million for technical and trade schools.

Funds released for railroads will help finance the purchase of 200 freight cars, the reconstruction of 500 war-damaged freight cars, and the construction of 80 miles of new roadway. The agricultural program includes the development of marginal land by drainage, irrigation and erosion control, mechanization and increased use of fertilizer. Twelve war-damaged universities, scientific institutions and schools also will be improved and will benefit from the purchase of technical apparatus.

EFFECTS OF THE RECENT AUSTRIAN EXCHANGE REVALUATIONS. The effects of the recent Austrian exchange revaluations on the country's economy form the subject of a survey made by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research in Vienna and published in its latest bulletin. The survey points out that Austrian economy will now have to adapt itself much more closely to world prices. One of the first consequences of the new exchange rates is that the domestic price structure will be adversely affected by the higher cost of most ERP imports, which, instead of being effected at a rate of 10 schillings to the dollar, as heretofore, must now be bought at an exchange rate of 21.36 schillings to the dollar. Not only has previous discrimination, between importers receiving ERP goods and those who have had to obtain their foreign exchange on theagio market, now been eliminated, but average import rates have been brought into line with average export rates. Another result of the higher cost of ERP imports, the survey says, will be a change in the factors governing business competition. The new situation will favor those branches of industry which are least dependent

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upon imports, such as the enterprises engaged in the production of finished goods from domestic raw materials; on the other hand, industries which must rely heavily on imports of raw materials -- and a number of nationalized enterprises whose import requirements are met primarily from ERP sources are also included -- will be in a considerably worse competitive position. For the latter industries, the Marshall Plan represented somewhat of a subsidy and this subsidy has now been markedly reduced.

According to the survey, no sharp increase in foreign trade can be expected in the immediate future. The reason given is that the new compound export rate of 21.36 schillings to the dollar is not very much higher than the private agio rate of about 18 schillings to the dollar paid heretofore. Furthermore, barter transactions, which had previously accounted for about 50% of all exports and had been effected at a much higher rate, will now be gradually reduced.

Export transactions based on outright currency payments are also not expected to increase in the near future because standardization of retention quotas at 60% has made many minor firms, which had previously received higher retention quotas, unable to face competition successfully. On the other hand, larger firms, which had previously been granted only limited retention quotas, will now enjoy a price advantage which will probably be reflected in relatively increased exports. But, since higher import prices will considerably increase the production costs of export industries dependent upon imports -- inasmuch as the changed currency rate has an effect equivalent to that of an increase in customs duties -- a slight decrease in exports can be expected.

The survey warns, however, that these pessimistic expectations are valid only for the immediate future; as lesser firms are again capable of successful competition through rationalization of their production capacity, or, in those cases where that is not possible, as their means of production and labor force gravitate toward larger and more productive enterprises, exports will again show an upward trend. A further incentive will be provided by the planned liberalization of foreign trade relations. The Institute points out the interests of Austrian industry as a whole are best served, not by maximum export production, but by quality export production.

For the tourist industry, the survey predicts a relatively early improvement because general tourist conditions have now been considerably normalized and because Austria is now in a much better position to compete for the tourist dollar, inasmuch as the premium rate of 26 schillings to the dollar is not much lower than the black market rate.

NEW CLASSIFICATION OF IMPORT ARTICLES. As reported in the November issue of the "Austrian Information" Bulletin, all import goods have now been officially classified into three categories by the Austrian Government, on the basis of their importance to the national economy. The new classification was announced shortly after the recent foreign exchange revaluations went into effect. Each category is governed by a different rate of exchange:

Category A - Foreign exchange allocation made at the basic rate of 14.40 schillings to the dollar. This category includes:

Essential foods and agricultural products such as sugar, wheat, potatoes, cattle for slaughtering, hogs, eggs, potassium salts, fertilizer, etc.

Category B - Forty percent of the allocation made at the basic rate of 14.40 and 60% at the premium rate. (Since the premium rate now stands at 26 schillings to the dollar, the compound rate for this category is 21.36 schillings to the dollar -- Editor.). This category includes:

Tobacco, several less essential cereals, flour, rice, vegetables, waxes and fatty acids, coal, ores, tannin, cotton, worsted yarns, rubber, hides and skins, ferrous alloys, sheet metal of less than 1 mm thickness, tubing, machinery and apparatus; potassium, sodium and ammonium compounds; varnishes, etc.

Category C - Allocation made at the premium rate. This category includes:

Coffee, tea, spices, tropical fruit, canned fruit and preserves, tar, woven and knitted cotton goods, furs, sheet metal of more than 1 mm thickness, ball bearings, trucks and passenger cars, electrical appliances, certain organic chemical compounds, paints, soap, etc.

The above goods represent only a partial listing. The complete list is available at the Austrian Foreign Trade Office, 70 Wall Street, New York, and at the Austrian Consulate General, Information Department, 509 Fifth Avenue, New York.





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NEW CURRENCY AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS TO AFFECT AUSTRIAN AUTO IMPORTS.

Austrian automobile imports are expected to take a sharp drop as a result of the new currency regulations, since such imports will henceforth be possible only at an exchange rate of 26 schillings to the dollar and since barter transactions involving the importation of automobiles will be authorized only in exceptional cases. A third factor which will make foreign cars an almost unattainable luxury item for Austrians are the higher customs duties expected to be levied on imported automobiles.

To offset this, the Austrian automotive industry is planning to intensify its assembling construction of foreign makes. Present negotiations between the Steyr Works and the Fiat Works of Turin, Italy, for further imports of automobile units, have already progressed to the point where assembling operations are scheduled to start at the beginning of 1950. Steyr will import 1800 units of Fiat type 1100 E and type 107, in exchange for tractors, pig iron and magnesite. The first such transaction with Fiat had resulted in the completion of 1200 cars by Steyr. The Graef & Stift Company will import 500 Aero-Minor cars from Czechoslovakia in exchange for Austrian frame houses. This will represent the second such transaction with that country.

VIENNA SPRING FAIR TO BE HELD IN MARCH. The International Vienna Spring Fair will be held in the "Messepalast", in the center of the city, and at the Fair grounds, in the Prater, between March 12 and 19, 1950. The products of industry and trade will be shown at both exhibition places. Moreover, an agricultural and forestry fair will be held at the Prater.

AUSTRIA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN WOOD. This year's Austrian exports of wood have increased considerably over those of the previous year. Exports of coniferous sawed timber, finished cases, fruit crates, hardwood and wood fiber showed a marked increase, although exports of frame houses and sawdust decreased. Major wood imports included round timber, pulp wood, charcoal and railroad ties.

AUSTRIAN INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY INCREASING. The number of Austrian industrial enterprises increased from 4,296 in January to 4,367 in June, according to an industrial production survey of the first half of 1949 made by the Austrian Federal Chamber of Trade and Industry. This represents an increase of 1.6%. During the same six month period the number of gainfully employed in industry rose from 395,561 to 422,235, an increase of 6.7%. Of the 422,235 individuals employed in June, 1949, 53,799 were employees and 368,436 workers. The average percentage relationship for the country is therefore 12.7% employees and 87.3% workers.

The Chamber's survey concludes that a relationship of 10 to 1 between workers and employees, may be regarded as normal and recommends that with increased productivity, such as was ascertained during the period under survey, an increasingly larger proportion of workers over employees should be hired.

AUSTRIAN MEAT PRODUCTION IN 1948. In 1948 Austria slaughtered more animals for meat than in 1946, although fewer steers, cows and hogs were slaughtered than in 1947, according to official statistics recently released. The 1948 decrease over the previous year was due to the fact that the stock of cows and steers had decreased sharply in 1947. In 1948 a total of 165,384 cows, 43,831 oxen, 34,666 steers, 468,013 calves, 884,335 hogs, 79,207 sheep, 15,672 horses and other cattle were slaughtered. The total amount of meat obtained consisted of 52,591 tons of beef, 14,174 tons of veal and 51,292 tons of pork. Compared to the average yearly output of meat for the period 1934 to 1938, the 1948 figures represent a drop of 32% in beef, 18% in veal and 68% in pork.

AUSTRIAN BELLS TO BE EXPORTED ABROAD. Austrian bell foundries, which have been operating to capacity during the last few years to meet the increased domestic demand for bells, which, during the war, had to be surrendered and melted down, are now conducting negotiations in Italy, the United Kingdom and Brazil with a view to the resumption of exports in this field.

The Pfunder Company, a bell foundry in Vienna, is now processing about 280 tons of crude metal per year and has just completed its 2000th bell since the end of the war.





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JEWISH COMMUNITY OF VIENNA HOLDS ELECTIONS. On December 11, the Jewish Community in Vienna cast 5,452 valid votes in a city-wide community election. Of these, 4,986 votes were cast for the All-Jewish faction and 268 votes for the Association of Jewish Businessmen. The leading candidates of the first of these groups were Professor Mandl, Dr. Emil Maurer and David Brill; the candidate for the other group was E.M. Ehrlich. As a result of the election, the All-Jewish faction obtained 29 mandates and the Association of Jewish Businessmen 1 mandate. The election proceeded without disturbance.

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC TO GIVE GUEST PERFORMANCES IN EGYPT. The Vienna Philharmonic, under the baton of Clemens Krauss and Wilhelm Furtwaengler, will give several guest performances in Egypt between February 14 and March 17. The concerts will be under the patronage of King Faruk. All members of the royal family have shown great interest in these concerts and Mohammed Taher Pascha, a nephew of the king, is financing the guest tour.

VIENNA SYMPHONY TOURS GERMANY. The Vienna Symphony, which ranks next to the Vienna Philharmonic as the city's outstanding orchestra, will give concerts in 12 German cities early in 1950, on its first post-war guest tour abroad. The concerts are to be conducted by Herbert Karajan. The orchestra, which was founded in 1900, also plans a South American tour, but negotiations are still pending.

JOSEF KRIPS ARRIVES IN LONDON TO CONDUCT 7 CONCERTS. Professor Josef Krips arrived in London at the end of November to conduct seven orchestral concerts. The famous Viennese conductor, whose operatic direction both in Vienna and at the Salzburg Festivals have earned him international renown, is being considered for the position of regular conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra.

CATHOLIC CHURCH PRELATE PROTESTS TRASH LITERATURE. Archbishop Rohrer of Salzburg addressed an open letter to the Austrian Government protesting the increasing flood of immoral literature now being disseminated, according to a Catholic News Service report. Declaring that he was speaking for a majority of the people, the Archbishop requested that an immediate stop be put to this unbearable situation. He said that it was not only as Bishop, but as Austrian, that he was concerned about his country's reputation abroad - despite its poverty, degradation and present weakness. As a man too, he abhorred the degradation of womanhood, his letter concluded.

"CARITAS" IN AUSTRIA. The Catholic charity drive ("Caritas") for Austria, launched by American Catholics early in 1946, has achieved the following results:

The National Catholic Welfare Conference supplied 70,000 tons of food, 5,000 tons of clothing and 5,000 tons of medicines, including streptomycin, which saved many lives. Since July 1949, twentyfive percent of all gifts have been given to "Volksdeutsche" residing in Austria.

According to a report of the "Caritas" organization in Salzburg, 117,000 kilos of food were dispensed in the form of warm meals and packages, and 87,000 pieces of clothing distributed, during the year 1948. These donations came principally from foreign Catholics, especially from those in the United States, Switzerland, Ireland, Canada and Argentina.

NEW AUSTRIAN REGULATIONS FOR THE ENTRY OF GIFT PARCELS. Previous regulations governing the entry of gift parcels into Austria have been amended so that those gift packages with a value not in excess of 300 schillings will no longer require an import license. Excluded from license-free packages, however, are shipments of cut flowers, wine, liquor, salt, tobacco or tobacco products. The monthly quota of 200 cigarettes, or 50 cigars, or 150 grams of tobacco per person remains unaffected. Packages with a value in excess of 300 schillings are subject to certain formalities in order to prevent abuse.

AUSTRIAN STAMPS NOW AVAILABLE TO COLLECTORS ABROAD. It is now possible to order, prepaid, current Austrian stamps that are in sufficient stock from the "Generaldirektion fuer die Post und Telegraphenverwaltung," Wien I., Postgasse 8. The simplest way to obtain these stamps is to send a money order, payable to the Post und Telegraphenverwaltung, Wien I., to the Austrian National Bank, Wien I., Rockgasse 4. One dollar will defray the cost of stamps having a nominal value of 25.83 schillings.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE  
 OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, NEW YORK, ON OCTOBER 11, 1942.  
 THE INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM A LETTER FROM THE ATTORNEY  
 GENERAL TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, DATED OCTOBER 10, 1942.  
 THE INFORMATION RELATES TO THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
 JACOB ARONSON, DECEASED, AND THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
 SARAH ARONSON, DECEASED.

THE INFORMATION IS AS FOLLOWS: THE ESTATE OF JACOB ARONSON,  
 DECEASED, WAS ADMINISTERED BY THE ESTATE OF SARAH ARONSON,  
 DECEASED, AND THE ESTATE OF SARAH ARONSON, DECEASED, WAS  
 ADMINISTERED BY THE ESTATE OF JACOB ARONSON, DECEASED.

THE INFORMATION IS AS FOLLOWS: THE ESTATE OF JACOB ARONSON,  
 DECEASED, WAS ADMINISTERED BY THE ESTATE OF SARAH ARONSON,  
 DECEASED, AND THE ESTATE OF SARAH ARONSON, DECEASED, WAS  
 ADMINISTERED BY THE ESTATE OF JACOB ARONSON, DECEASED.

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AUSTRIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT FILM NOW BEING SHOWN. A new film entitled "Duel with Death", which critics have called an effective portrayal of Austria's resistance against the Nazis, is now being shown in Vienna. The story is based on a real life experience which happened to the film's author and director Paul May.

In Thiersee, Tyrol, the film "One Night", produced by London Film and directed by Karl Hartl, has just been completed. Most of the action takes place in the Tyrol mountains. This has been the first instance where a foreign-produced motion picture has been filmed entirely in Austria.

TELEVISION IN AUSTRIA. An association was recently formed in Vienna, under the direction of film producer Walter Kolm-Veltee, with the aim of establishing a television industry in Austria at an early date. Technical knowledge and facilities are already available, but the financial problems still remain to be solved. There is little prospect in the immediate future that the large-scale costs necessary for the establishment and operation of a television network can be defrayed from the fees paid by prospective set owners. The association is therefore planning to combine television with film production, in order that the latter may carry a considerable part of the operating costs. The association will probably produce only the material to be televised and leave the actual transmission of telecasts to the General Postal Service with which negotiations are now being conducted.

"THE BOOK OF AUSTRIA" NOW AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH. A year after its publication in German, "The Book of Austria", a richly illustrated book presenting a cross-section of the country and its people in feuilletonistic form, will soon be available in English. The great publicity value of the book, which was well received by the public, thanks to its appealing layout and appearance, soon made the need for English and French editions apparent. These have been competently prepared by G.E.R. Gedy, British writer, journalist and author of "Fallen Bastions", and by Professor Leon van Vassenhoven, former correspondent for the Agence Havas in Austria. Publication of these two foreign-language editions is expected soon. They will also be available in the United States.

COURSES IN MICROCHEMISTRY TO BE GIVEN IN GRAZ. The Karl-Franzens University in Graz, Styria, in the September 1950 curriculum of its Institute of Medicine and Chemistry, will offer three to five week courses in microchemistry. These courses have been given yearly for the past three decades and have met with great response both in Austria and abroad. The first International Congress of Microchemistry will be held in Graz early in July 1950.

171,414 PERSONS USED THE GROSSGLOCKNER HIGHWAY BETWEEN MAY AND SEPTEMBER. Austria's most famous alpine highway, which runs from Fusch to Heiligenblut across the Grossglockner (the country's highest mountain - 12,441 feet), was accessible to motor traffic from May 22 to September 5 and, during these 165 days, was used by 171,414 persons. This represents a 95% increase over the previous year's traffic.

AUSTRIA REPRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF CHILDREN'S ART. An international exhibition of children's handicraft and paintings was opened at the New York Museum of Natural History on December 6, under the auspices of the Committee for "World Friendship Among Children". More than twenty countries are represented at the exhibition, including the Soviet Union and Western Germany. Austria's participation, which was organized by the Austro-American Society in Vienna, is exceptionally large. The Austrian exhibits were found to be outstanding by the Exhibition Committee and widely praised by the public.

FIRST AUSTRIAN CHILDREN'S VILLAGE ESTABLISHED. The first Austrian children's village of the "Societas Socialis" was opened on December 2, in Imst, Tyrol. The main purpose of this social project is to offer orphans and homeless children a normal childhood in a family atmosphere. Six to eight children live in each group of houses under the care of an experienced nurse. The children's village is financed by voluntary contributions.





FORMER AUSTRIAN CONSUL IN U.S. DIES. Dr. Friedrich Fischerauer, Austrian Consul General in New York from 1921 to 1938, died in November at his home near Leoben, Styria, at the age of 67. Dr. Fischerauer came to New York for the first time in 1911. Until 1917 he was an Attaché and later the Vice Consul. After World War I he returned to New York as Consul General and held that post until 1938. After the end of World War II Dr. Fischerauer offered his services to the new Austrian Government, but soon thereafter he was formally retired. In 1949 President Karl Renner bestowed upon him the honorary title of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in acknowledgement of his services.

OLD VIENNESE PALACE BECOMES DOCTORS' BUILDING. On December 8, a doctors' building was opened in Vienna, which, in addition to an information service for Austrian and foreign physicians, also offers such facilities as lecture halls, reading rooms and halls for festive and official occasions. The building is housed in a wing of the Harrach Palace, on the Freyung (1st district), which was built in the 17th century by the famous architect Lucas Hildebrandt. The palace was severely damaged during the war.

AUSTRIA PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW. An Austrian team of 16 Lippizan horses from the Spanish Riding Academy in Vienna, under the direction of Major Podhajsky, participated in the International Horse Show held in Zurich at the end of November. Riders from France, Belgium, Sweden, England, Italy and Switzerland also participated.

U.S. TRAVELERS CHECKS NOW VALID IN AUSTRIA. Effective January 1, 1950, US-dollar travelers checks issued by the American Express Company will be accepted at all main Austrian railway stations and larger Austrian resort stations, as payment for railroad tickets and freight charges.

WINTER SPORT CENTER NEAR VIENNA. The Semmering area, approximately 60 miles south of Vienna, is again expected to be a favored winter sport resort this year for both Austrian and foreign tourists. The damages caused by the war have been almost completely repaired during the last three years and hotels are again in a position to provide some 2,000 sleeping accommodations. The only available bobsleigh-run in Austria at the present time has been restored at the Semmering, and important races are already planned for this winter.

ICE CYCLE RACES IN VIENNA. On December 17, various ice cycle races were held in Vienna for the first time. The participants used special cycles equipped with an ice prop under the rear wheel and a skate runner under the front fork.

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER YOUTH TOURNAMENT TO BE PLAYED IN VIENNA. The Austrian Soccer Association was notified by the International Soccer Association (FIFA) that the 1950 international soccer youth tournament would be held in Vienna, according to an announcement by the Austrian Soccer Association.

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AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

NOV 30 1950



